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THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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PL SHIPPING & LOGISTICS LTD.

Plaintiff,

07 CV 2818 (SHS)

ANSWER, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES
AND CROSSCLAIMS

-against-

H.J.M. INTERNATIONAL INC. and BANK OF
AMERICA and AFFORDABLE LUXURY
RYAN KENNY

Defendants.

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Defendant, Bank of America, N.A. (sued herein under its common trade name of “Bank of America”) hereinafter “BOA”, by its attorneys, Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP, in response to the plaintiff’s verified complaint (hereinafter “complaint”) and as and for its crossclaims against co-defendants alleges and answers as follows:

1. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph 1 of the complaint and further states that, upon information and belief, this action is governed by State law and the ICC Uniform Rules for Collections (International Chamber of Commerce Publication No. 522 Leaflet Version ICC No. 522 LF), hereinafter referred to as “URC 522”.

2. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 2 of the complaint.

3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 3 of the complaint.

4. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph 4 of the complaint, except solely admits that BOA maintains a banking branch at 8755 Roswell Road, Atlanta, Georgia. BOA further states that it is a U.S. Federally chartered national bank maintaining various branches and other offices for the transaction of business throughout the United States, including the aforementioned branch in Atlanta, Georgia.

5. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 5 of the complaint.

6. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 6 of the complaint.

7. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 7 of the complaint, except solely admits that it maintains various offices and branches for the transaction of banking business throughout the City and State of New York.

8. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 8 of the complaint and respectfully refers all questions of fact and law to this Court for determination.

9. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 9 of the complaint and respectfully refers all questions of fact and law to this Court for determination.

10. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 10 of the complaint and respectfully refers all questions of fact and law to this Court for determination.

11. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph 11 of the complaint, except admits solely that certain documents were released by BOA's above described Atlanta, Georgia branch.

12. Denies the allegation contained in paragraph 12 of the complaint to the extent said allegations are asserted against BOA and puts plaintiff to its proof, except admits solely that the documents released by BOA's above described Atlanta, Georgia branch were not endorsed by BOA. Furthermore, to the extent the allegations in paragraph 12 are asserted against co-defendant H.J.M., BOA denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of said allegations, except that BOA states that co-defendant H.J.M. as a matter of law could not have and should not have released any of the alleged goods contained in the alleged shipment without the necessary documents reflecting the endorsement of BOA where BOA was the designated consignee of record on the face of the documents and otherwise verifying that payment for the subject goods had been made by co-defendant AFFORDABLE. BOA further respectfully refers all questions of fact and law to this Court for determination.

13. Denies the allegation contained in paragraph 13 of the complaint and puts plaintiff to its proof and further respectfully refers all questions of fact and law to this Court for determination.

14. Denies the allegation contained in paragraph 14 of the complaint, puts plaintiff to its proof and further respectfully refers all questions of fact and law to this Court for determination.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

15. Upon information and belief, plaintiff fails to state a cause of action.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

16. Upon information and belief, plaintiff lacks standing to maintain this action.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

17. Plaintiff lacks standing to assert this action. This action is governed by URC 522 and pursuant to Article 16 (b) thereof, the sole party entitled to receive any payment alleged to be required in such a documentary collection is the remitting bank only, which in this case is ABN Amro Bank in India (hereinafter "ABN") which was the purported preparer and remitting bank of the subject collection documents (URC Article 3a.2).

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

18. Upon information and belief, plaintiff has sustained no damages to the extent that the alleged merchandise was not in fact contained in the alleged shipments and/or said merchandise was defective or non-conforming.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

19. Upon information and belief, plaintiff has sustained no damages as the result of any action on the part of BOA.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

20. Upon information and belief, there is no proximate cause between any alleged damages sustained by plaintiff and any action of BOA.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

21. As to any of the subject collection documents which were on their face consigned and tendered to BOA, as such were not endorsed by BOA, no party, including co-defendant H.J.M., was authorized as a matter of law to release any of the alleged goods to the purchaser since the collection documents were not negotiable without BOA's endorsement as consignee.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

22. Upon information and belief this action is barred in whole or in part by plaintiff's and/or the alleged sellers' negligence.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

23. Upon information and belief, it is presently unknown as to whether the alleged collection instructions provided by ABN to BOA were in compliance with the requirements of URC 522, including, without limitation, the requirements for specific handling and payment instructions as set forth in URC Articles 4 and 5 and otherwise, as to what purported obligations were being placed upon BOA regarding the subject collection documents. BOA has repeatedly requested ABN to provide copies of the subject documentary collection documents allegedly sent to BOA but ABN has not responded to date.

AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

24. Upon information and belief, plaintiff's action is barred by the principle of estoppel.

AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

25. Upon information and belief, plaintiff's action is barred by the principle of laches.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

26. Upon information and belief, plaintiff's action may be barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

27. Upon information and belief, any actual loss sustained by plaintiff, if any, was not the result of any action on the part of BOA.

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

28. Pursuant to URC Article 10a., none of the subject alleged goods should have been consigned to BOA since BOA had not agreed to such consignment.

AS AND FOR A FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

29. Upon information and belief, ABN and/or the seller of the alleged goods and/or plaintiff failed to promptly notify BOA of the alleged release of the subject collection documents so as to allow BOA the opportunity to take any possible recovery and/or mitigation action.

AS AND FOR A SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

30. Upon information and belief, ABN and/or the seller of the alleged goods and/or plaintiff have failed to mitigate any alleged damages.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

31. Upon information and belief, the alleged goods may or may not have been as stated and may or may not have been conforming or damaged and, to such extent no damages will have been sustained as the result of the release of the collection documents. BOA puts plaintiff to its proof and respectfully refers all questions of fact and law to this Court for determination.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
DEFENDANT H.J.M. INTERNATIONAL, INC. ("H.J.M.")

32. To the extent the subject collection documents did not contain BOA's endorsement as the consignee party of same, H.J.M. negligently, wrongfully and improperly released the alleged goods to the purchaser as against the foregoing legally facially defective and insufficient documents pursuant to applicable State and other in light of the lack of any endorsement by BOA. Accordingly, H.J.M. is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment that may be entered herein in favor of plaintiff as against BOA.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
DEFENDANT H.J.M. INTERNATIONAL, INC. ("H.J.M.")

33. Upon information and belief, H.J.M. had a duty to verify that the subject alleged goods had been paid for and consequently since H.J.M. failed to so verify its release of the alleged goods to the purchaser was negligent and wrongful. Accordingly, H.J.M. is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment that may be entered herein in favor of plaintiff as against BOA.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
DEFENDANT H.J.M. INTERNATIONAL, INC. ("H.J.M.")

34. Upon information and belief, and if it may be determined that H.J.M. acted in collusion with AFFORDABLE and with knowledge that the alleged subject goods had not been paid for, then H.J.M.'s such conduct, if such be the case, would have constituted a fraudulent course of conduct. Accordingly, H.J.M. would be liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment that may be entered herein in favor of plaintiff as against BOA.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
DEFENDANT H.J.M. INTERNATIONAL, INC. ("H.J.M.")

35. The subject collection documents did not contain BOA's endorsement as the consignee party of same and, consequently, H.J.M. breached its duties under applicable laws and regulations and other applicable principles governing commercial bills of lading. Accordingly, H.J.M. is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment that may be entered herein in favor of plaintiff as against BOA.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
DEFENDANT H.J.M. INTERNATIONAL, INC. ("H.J.M.")

36. To the extent it is determined in this matter that H.J.M. engaged in any negligent and/or culpable conduct in releasing the alleged subject goods to AFFORDABLE, then in such event H.J.M. would have engaged in conduct constituting *prima facie* tort. Accordingly, H.J.M. is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment that may be entered herein in favor of plaintiff as against BOA.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY ("AFFORDABLE")

37. AFFORDABLE obtained possession of the subject documentary collection documents and the subject alleged goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the seller and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. Accordingly AFFORDABLE has become unjustly enriched by reason of the foregoing and is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY ("AFFORDABLE")

38. AFFORDABLE knowingly, falsely and deliberately and with intent to defraud obtained possession of the documentary collection documents and the subject alleged goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the seller and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. In so acting, AFFORDABLE engaged in conduct constituting fraud. Accordingly AFFORDABLE is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY ("AFFORDABLE")

39. AFFORDABLE obtained possession of the documentary collection documents and the subject alleged goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the Seller

and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. Consequently, AFFORDABLE is liable for money had and received. Accordingly, AFFORDABLE is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY (“AFFORDABLE”)

40. AFFORDABLE obtained possession of the documentary collection documents and the subject alleged goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the Seller and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. Accordingly AFFORDABLE is obligated to make restitution and is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY (“AFFORDABLE”)

41. AFFORDABLE obtained possession of the documentary collection documents and the subject alleged goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the Seller and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. Accordingly AFFORDABLE engaged in *prima facie* tortuous conduct and is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY (“AFFORDABLE”)

42. AFFORDABLE obtained possession of the documentary collection documents and the subject alleged goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the Seller and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. Accordingly AFFORDABLE is obligated to make contribution to any loss sustained by BOA and is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY (“AFFORDABLE”)

43. AFFORDABLE negligently obtained possession of the documentary collection documents and the alleged subject goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the Seller and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. Accordingly AFFORDABLE is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH CROSSCLAIM AGAINST
CO-DEFENDANT AFFORDABLE LUXURY RYAN KENNY (“AFFORDABLE”)

44. AFFORDABLE breached its express and/or its implied contract with BOA by obtaining possession of the documentary collection documents and the alleged subject goods without having paid for same in violation of the rights of the Seller and all of the other parties in this action, including, without limitation, BOA. Accordingly AFFORDABLE is liable to BOA in a like amount as any judgment entered herein in favor of plaintiff against BOA.

WHEREFORE, BOA respectfully requests an Order of the Court dismissing the plaintiff’s complaint or, alternatively, in the event plaintiff prevails in this action as against BOA, then an Order of the Court granting (i) BOA judgment over against defendant H.J.M. pursuant to BOA’s FIRST through FIFTH CROSSCLAIMS in a like amount as any judgment entered in favor of plaintiff against BOA, and (ii) granting BOA judgment over against defendant AFFORDABLE in a like amount as any judgment entered in favor of plaintiff against BOA pursuant to BOA’s FIRST through EIGHTH CROSSCLAIMS herein, together with such

other and further relief as to this Court may seem just and proper

Dated: White Plains, New York
June 8, 2007

Yours etc,

WILSON, ELSER, MOSKOWITZ,
EDELMAN & DICKER LLP

By: /s/ Constantine Despotakis
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To:
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AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I, Geri Manno, being sworn, say:

I am not a party to the action, am over the age of 18 years of age and reside in Westchester County, New York. On June 8, 2007, I served the within **ANSWER, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES AND CROSSCLAIMS** by depositing a true copy thereof enclosed in a postpaid wrapper, via First Class Mail, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the U.S. Postal Service within New York State, addressed to each of the following persons at the last known address set forth after each name:

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/s/ Geri Manno
Geri Manno

Sworn to before me this
8th day of June, 2007

/s/ Laura Hanna
Notary Public